The Weapon of Terror

The Almighty Allah, in His wisdom, decreed to select prophets from amongst His creation, and to make some of them better than others. Thus, He selected the best for this Ummah over others, and made His Prophet Muhammad ﷺ the best among prophets, for he bestowed upon him qualities and powers that He gave to no other prophets. Amongst these are victory and terror. It is narrated in Sahih al-Bukhari that the Prophet ﷺ said: "I have been given five virtues which were not given to anyone else before me. Allah made me victorious by fear from a distance of one month's journey…" Fear would befall the hearts of the kuffar before the Prophet's ﷺ army invaded their areas. At a distance of one month's journey their hearts would fiercely beat."

Victory through terror is a characteristic given to the Ummah of the Prophet ﷺ after him, for fear would reach their enemies hearts' ahead of the arrival of Muslim soldiers, and before their swords hit. Evidence of this in the tales of Islamic conquests waged by the Sahabah, their followers, and those that came after them. However, this gift of victory is only given to those who follow the path of the Prophet ﷺ and his guidance, for tawhid was his path of worship and jihad was his way of life, in speech as well as in deed, as he obeyed Allah's command in being prepared for jihad. Only then, would terror in the hearts of the kuffar be a reward for this obedience. As Almighty Allah said: "And prepare against them whatever you are able of power and of steeds of war by which you may terrify the enemy of Allah and your enemy" (Al-Anfal: 60). Whoever does not abide by Allah's command of jihad – after tawhid – will not be granted victory through terror. In fact, he who deviates from the prophetic path, lags in jihad for the sake of Allah, or clings to this world, will have this gift turned against him. Allah will then place weakness into his heart and have humiliation befall him! This is supported by the saying of the Prophet ﷺ: "Allah will take fear away from the breasts of your enemy and inflict weakness into your hearts. Someone asked: What is weakness, Messenger of Allah ﷺ? He replied: Love of the world and dislike of death." [Narrated by Ahmad].

Allah has supported His worshippers with terror in many instances outlined in the Noble Qur'an. One such instance was on the day of Badr when the Almighty said: "I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieved, so strike [them] upon the necks and strike from them every fingertip." And again, on the day of Uhud when the Almighty said: "We will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve for what they have worshipped with Allah." And then again when Bani al-Nadhir were evicted when the Majestic King said: "And He cast terror into their hearts [so] they destroyed their houses by their [own] hands and the hands of the believers". For these Jews had been so terrified that they removed the door and roofs from their own homes! The Majestic said on the day of al-Ahzab about Bani Quraydha: "And He brought down those from the People of the Book who supported the enemy alliance from their own strongholds, and cast horror into their hearts. You (believers) killed some, and took others captive."The latter befell them after they betrayed the Prophet ﷺ and allied themselves with the mushrikin against Muslims, and there are many more such examples. In dealing with these verses, interpreters have described horror by saying: "It is that immense fear, which is Allah's massive army of soldiers against which no preparations or numbers, no strength or power can withstand."

Terror remains, to this day, a divine reinforcement provided by Allah to His believing worshippers. Evidence for the presence of the soldier of terror in the mujahidin's battles is apparent in the statements and warnings that are repeatedly uttered, by the leaders of the Crusaders and murtadin, following any attack or advance accomplished by the soldiers of the Khilafah in any part of the planet. We saw how terror and anxiety struck the hearts of the kuffar when the lions forced their way into the Ghwayran Prison despite the Americans. The sounds of the attack echoed over the entire area, forcing the murtaddin to rush to reinforce their prisons and mobilize their forces in Sham and Iraq. The strike was in Ghwayran but the terror was everywhere!

Similarly, how many black days and nights did the Crusaders live in the aftermath of the blessed attacks, conducted by the heroes of Islam, in the heart of Crusade Europe during the peak of the Crusaders' campaign against the Khilafah? How much vexation, economic losses, and drainage of security resources did these attacks cause them? It was terror, which they tried to drive back by spending millions of dollars in an attempt to raise their forces' security readiness, and fortify their airports, cities, and intelligence apparatuses.

All this happened even though terror was only one of the Almighty Allah's soldiers.The Almighty said: "And to Allah belong the soldiers of the heavens and the earth." (Al-Fath: 4). Ibn Kathir, may Allah have mercy on him, also said: "If Allah wanted to, He could unleash a single Angel upon them and would eliminate them completely, even their mounts, but He the Almighty, in His wisdom, and with His absolute command, has permitted jihad and fighting for his believing worshippers. And regarding this He said: 'Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise.'" So, if only one of Allah's soldiers can do this, what would more do?!

And herein lies a nudge from the Most Powerful, the Giver, to the people of iman, to carry on and continue with their jihad in any circumstance, no matter the difficulties and injuries, and no matter how long it takes for victory to be brought down to them. Truly, He, the Almighty, is most Capable in delivering victory to His religion at the hands of only one soldier, but in His wisdom, He has decided to test His creation with calamities. So, some have believed and some have disbelieved!

Perhaps, in terror, Allah has made it a reward to the few believers against the scum who have fallen behind in fulfilling the Almighty Allah's commands. This is due to Allah's mercy upon His worshippers the mujahidin, who have taken the road less travelled. In exchange, Allah has bestowed upon them His guardianship and support, which they feel upon every path they take and into every valley they descend. That support has enabled the mujahidin to savor difficulties and find ease in hardship, paying with blood for honor and steadfastness, and accepting calmly what awaits them, while others pay, daily, a much bigger price for their humiliation and withdrawal.

Just as terror is a divine support for His worshippers who have earnestly declared Allah's Oneness, it is also a modern-day weapon that behooves the mujahidin to further develop their aim, in a variety of ways, and target their enemies in military and security arenas. This weapon has an undeniable effect upon the enemy who - at every point of contact and encounter with the soldiers of the Islamic State - all praise due to Allah - now lives in a permanent state of terror and readiness. Show us one area in which the enemy's soldiers feel safe, or sleep peacefully all night long?! Meanwhile, the mujahidin await them in ambush at every turn.

The media mujahid, using tools available to him, also has a role to play in terrorizing the kuffar and casting fear in their hearts. The media war and the weapon of terror go hand in hand, and should not be separated. With sincerity, a Muslim is guided to the paths of success in all his work, at the top of which is jihad. Contemplate the words of the Almighty: "As for those who struggle in Our cause, We will surely guide them along Our Way. And Allah is certainly with the good-doers." Interpreters have explained this as: "With support, victory and guidance." Allah will guide even further those who have already been on the right path. All praise be to Allah, the Lord of all creation.